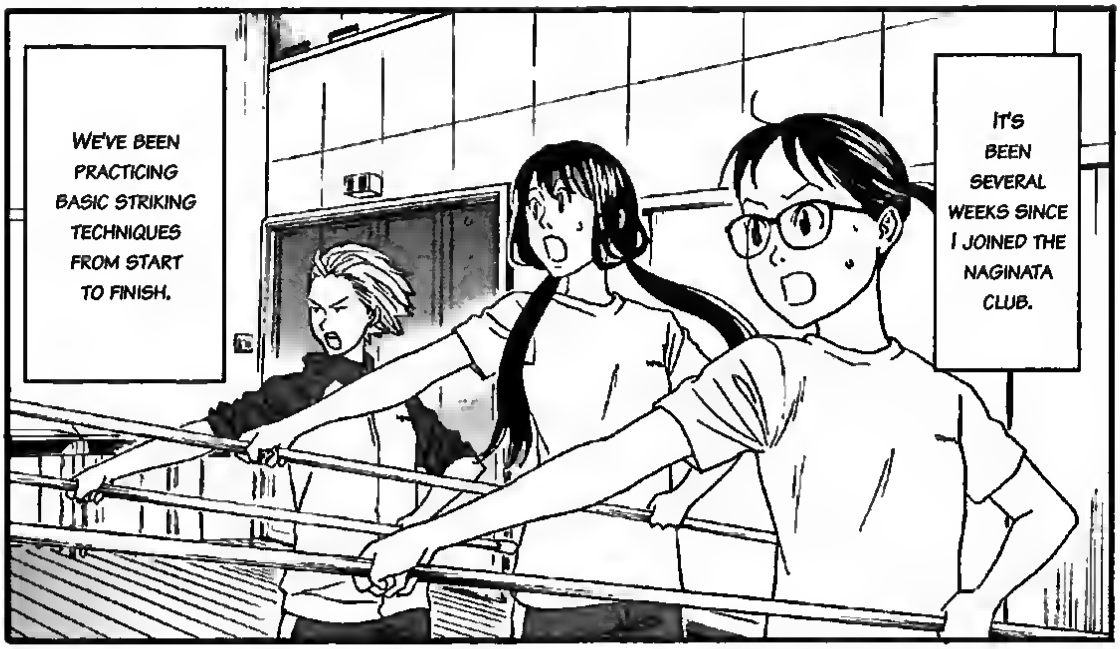
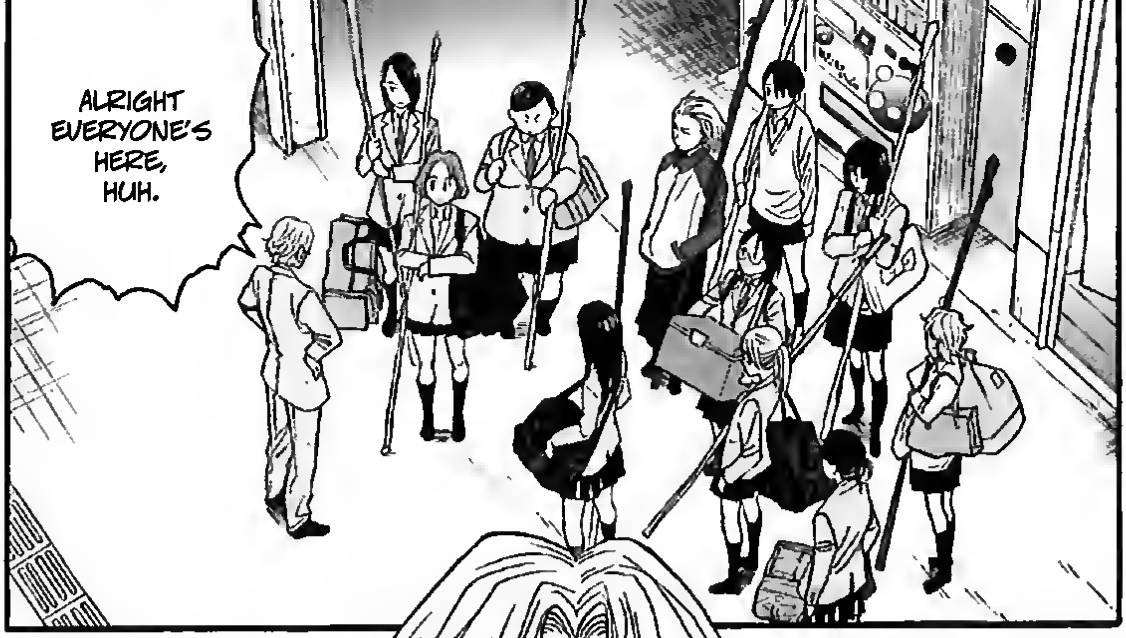

WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING BASIC STRIKING TECHNIQUES FROM START TO FINISH.
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL WEEKS SINCE I JOINED THE NAGINATA CLUB.

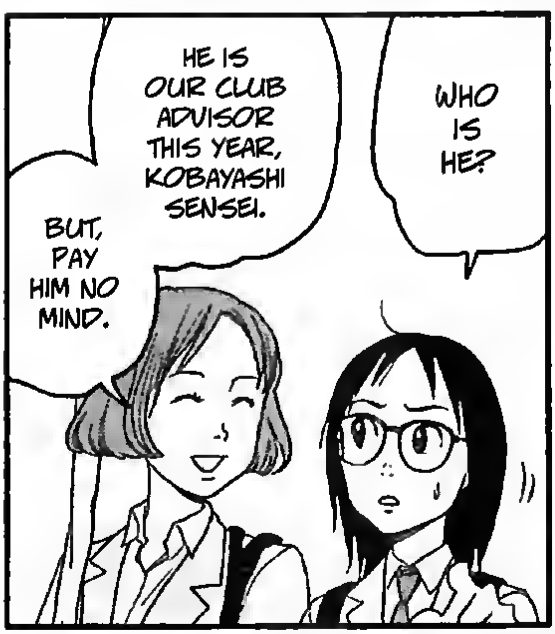
BUT THAT DAY,
EVERY DAY, I WORK MY HARDEST TO DO MY BEST.
TRUTH-FULLY, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
THAT THEY CALL A "NAGINATA MATCH".
HAS FINALLY HAS COME!

THE APPOINTED DAY OF THE INTERHIGH PRELIMINARIES!!
3本目 Red Sash


ALRIGHT EVERYONE'S HERE, HUH.

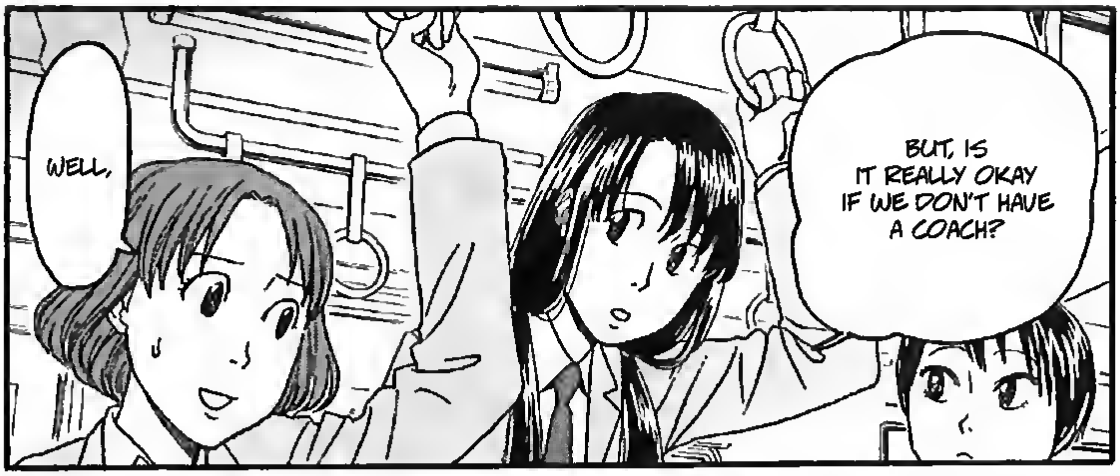
ARE YOU FEELING GREAT?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR PREPARA-TION?

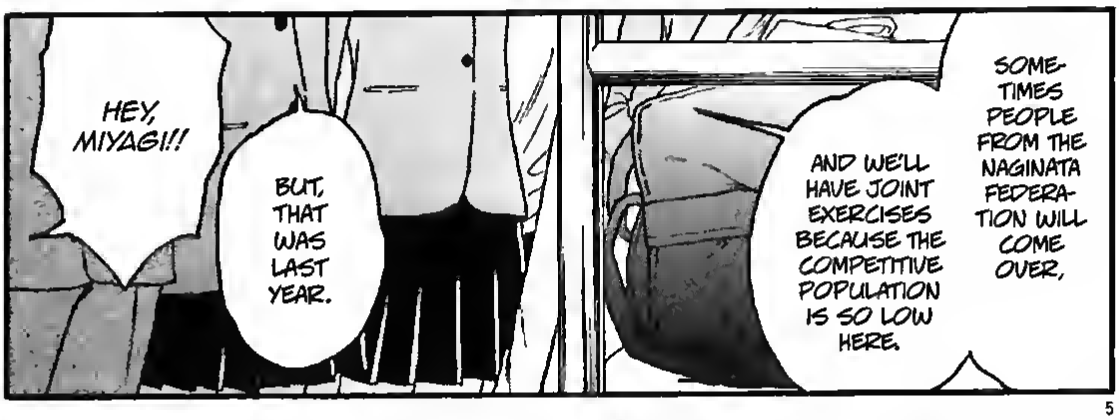
3


WHO IS HE?
HE IS OUR CLUB ADVISOR THIS YEAR, KOBAYASHI SENSEI.
BUT, PAY HIM NO MIND.

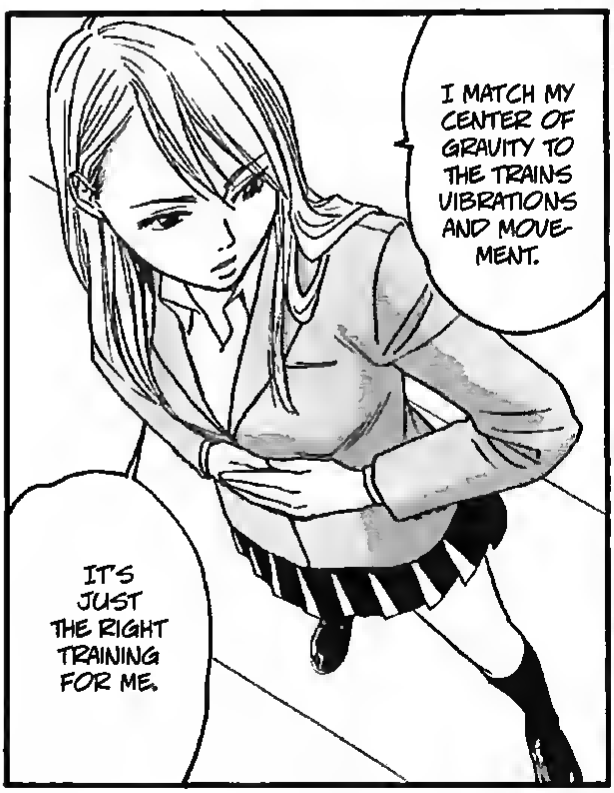
STOP, WE'RE ALL FINE.
HEY, DON'T BE WORRIED!
BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELVES AND GO OUT WITH A BANG!

BUT MATCHES ARE DIFFERENT.
WATCHING YOU, I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A MEMBER OF THE ROWING CLUB AND HOW I ALWAYS CHEERED THEM ON.
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. YOUR CITY BOY SENSEI DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT NAGINATA.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME WATCH US TRAIN. SO DON'T TRY TO COACH US WHEN MATCH TIME COMES.
ALRIGHT, WE'RE LEAVING.
HUH?
AT THAT TIME I CAME UP WITH AN ORIGINAL WAY TO LOOSEN UP BEFOR A MATCH SO I WOULDN'T BE SO NERVOUS. YOU JUST...
4
IN NAGINATA THERE'S NO TEACHER THAT CAN ALSO COACH.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHATEVER WE HAVE.
NOGAMI, I CAN HEAR YOU AND THAT HURTS.
HEY!
FIRST OF ALL, IMAGINE A POTATO...

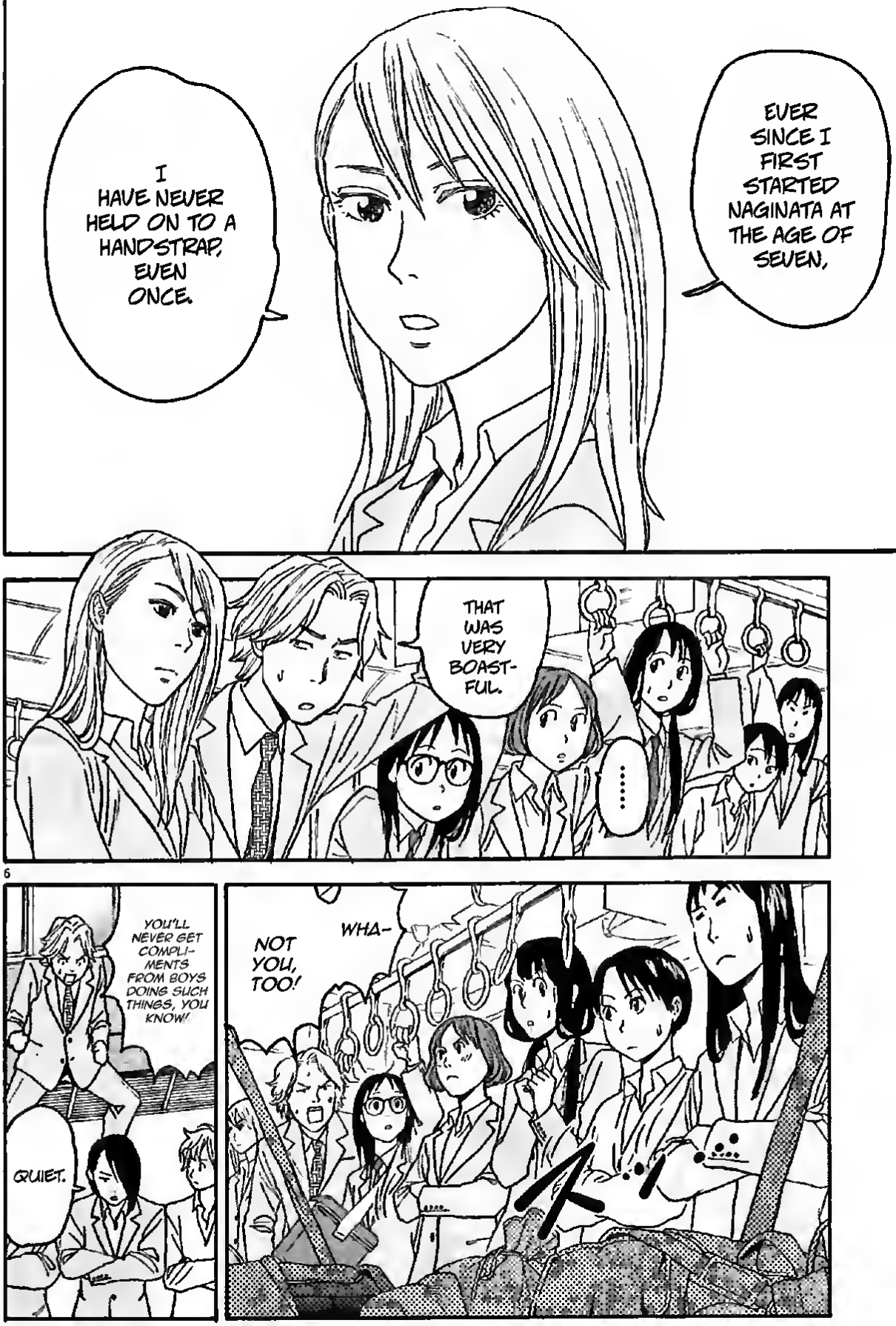

WELL,
BUT, IS IT REALLY OKAY IF WE DON'T HAVE A COACH?


HEY, MIYAGI!!
BUT, THAT WAS LAST YEAR.
AND WE'LL HAVE JOINT EXERCISES BECAUSE THE COMPETITIVE POPULATION IS SO LOW HERE.
SOME-TIMES PEOPLE FROM THE NAGINATA FEDERA-TION WILL COME OVER,

5


I MATCH MY CENTER OF GRAVITY TO THE TRAINS VIBRATIONS AND MOVE-MENT.
IT'S JUST THE RIGHT TRAINING FOR ME.

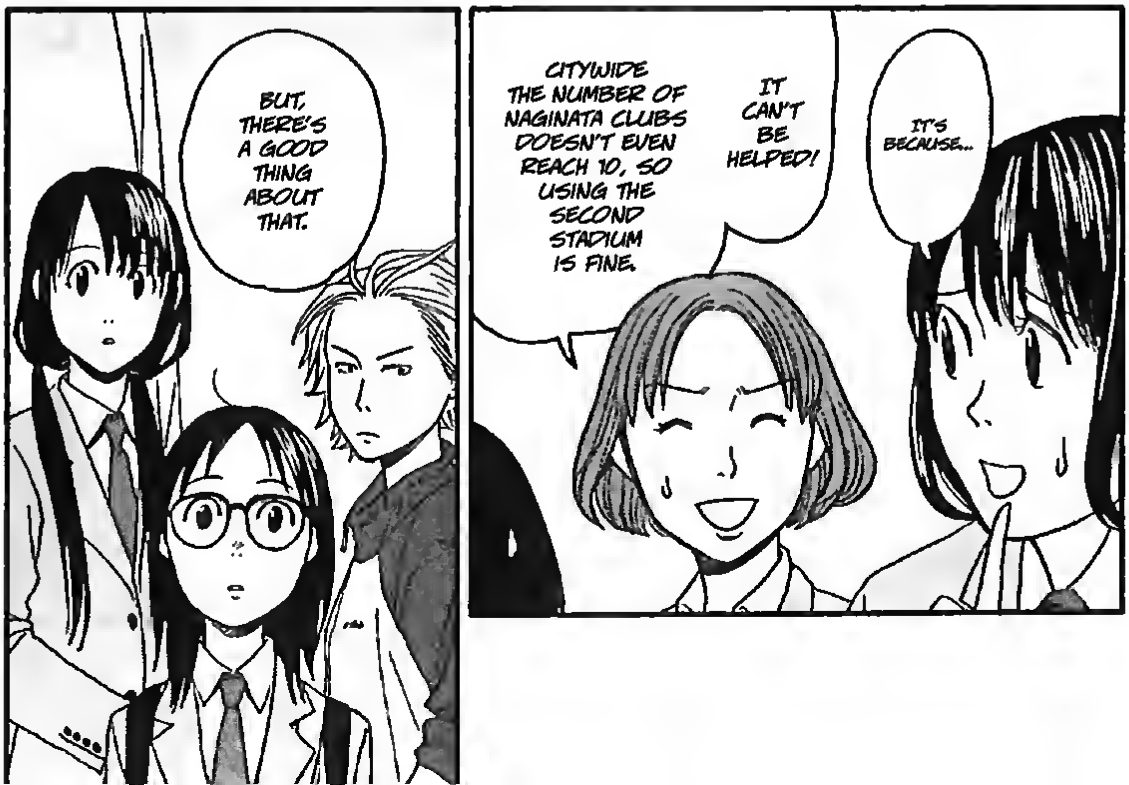
I REFUSE.
HOLD ON TO THE HAND-STRAP.


I HAVE NEVER HELD ON TO A HANDSTRAP, EVEN ONCE.
EVER SINCE I FIRST STARTED NAGINATA AT THE AGE OF SEVEN,
THAT WAS VERY BOAST-FUL.
.....
6
YOU'LL NEVER GET COMPLI-MENTS FROM BOYS DOING SUCH THINGS, YOU KNOW!
QUIET.
WHA-
NOT YOU, TOO!

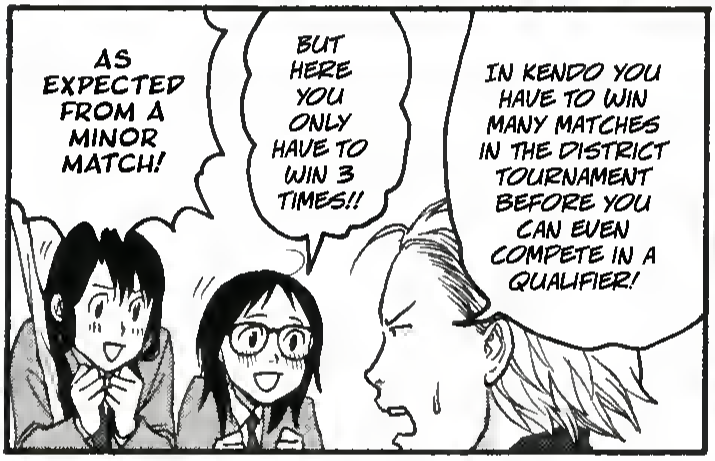
MAHARU SENPAI, EVEN AMONG THE OTHER NAGINATA CLUB MEMBERS, IS A SPECIAL PERSON.
I see...
Maharu senpai teaches everyone.
IT SEEMS THAT LAST YEAR SHE WENT TO INTERHIGH ALL BY HERSELF.
ビクッ
WHAT IS IT?
IN THE KANTOU AREA IT IS RARE FOR SOMEONE TO START LEARNING NAGINATA AT SUCH AN EARLY AGE.
NOTH-ING...
I THINK,
NEXT STOP - BUBAIGAWARA - BUBAIGAWARA
キキーッ
ゴトン
SHE'S AN AMAZING PERSON.

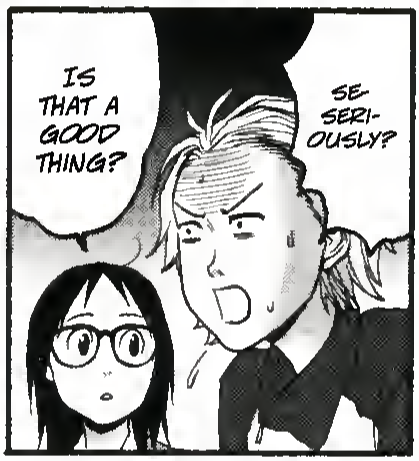
IT'S SO MODERN LOOKING, ISN'T IT?
WOW, IT'S HUGE!!
Tokyo Budokan

THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE FIRST MARTIAL ARTS STADIUM.
NAGINATA IS IN THE SECOND STADIUM, SO IT'S THIS WAY.
ALRIGHT THEN, I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN.
YOU GIRLS DON'T GET LOST AROUND THE BOY'S KARATE MATCHES, OKAY?
UH, WAIT A SECOND!
IT'S REALLY EXCITING TO BE HERE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
WHATEVER.
HEY, WHY DID YOUR FACES FALL SO QUICK?
It's so small.
OH...
.....

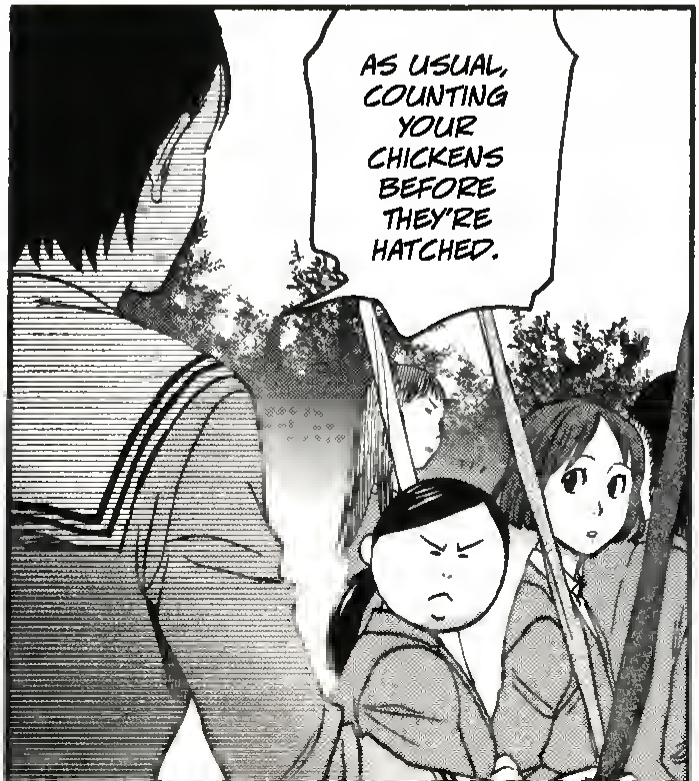

BUT, THERE'S A GOOD THING ABOUT THAT.
CITYWIDE THE NUMBER OF NAGINATA CLUBS DOESN'T EVEN REACH 10, SO USING THE SECOND STADIUM IS FINE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
IT'S BECAUSE...

WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERHIGH IN TOKYO'S FIRST POSITION.
WITH ONLY 3 VICTORIES.


AS EXPECTED FROM A MINOR MATCH!
BUT HERE YOU ONLY HAVE TO WIN 3 TIMES!!
IN KENDO YOU HAVE TO WIN MANY MATCHES IN THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN COMPETE IN A QUALIFIER!


IS THAT A GOOD THING?
SE-SERI-OUSLY?

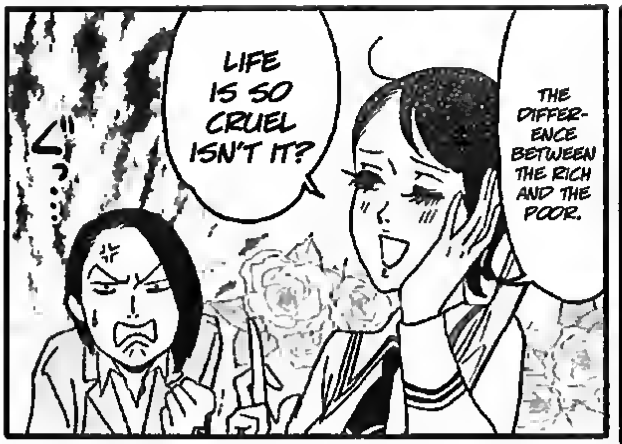
10


AS USUAL, COUNTING YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED.

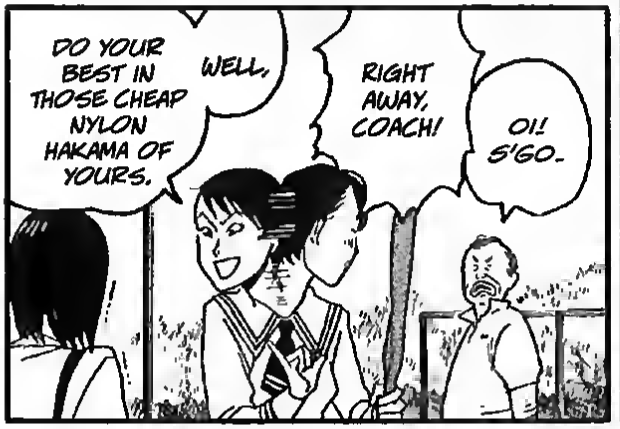
LET'S JUST CONTINUE WITHOUT THINKING TOO HARD ABOUT IT.
IT'S GOOD? IT'S NOT GOOD? I DON'T GET IT.

ON THE SECOND OF THOSE 3 MATCHES,
DIDN'T YOU LOSE LAST YEAR?
It's a private girl's school in Azabu. They're the type who can annoy you with just one word.
They're from Seisen Academy.
Who are they?
SO YOU'RE HERE SEISEN.

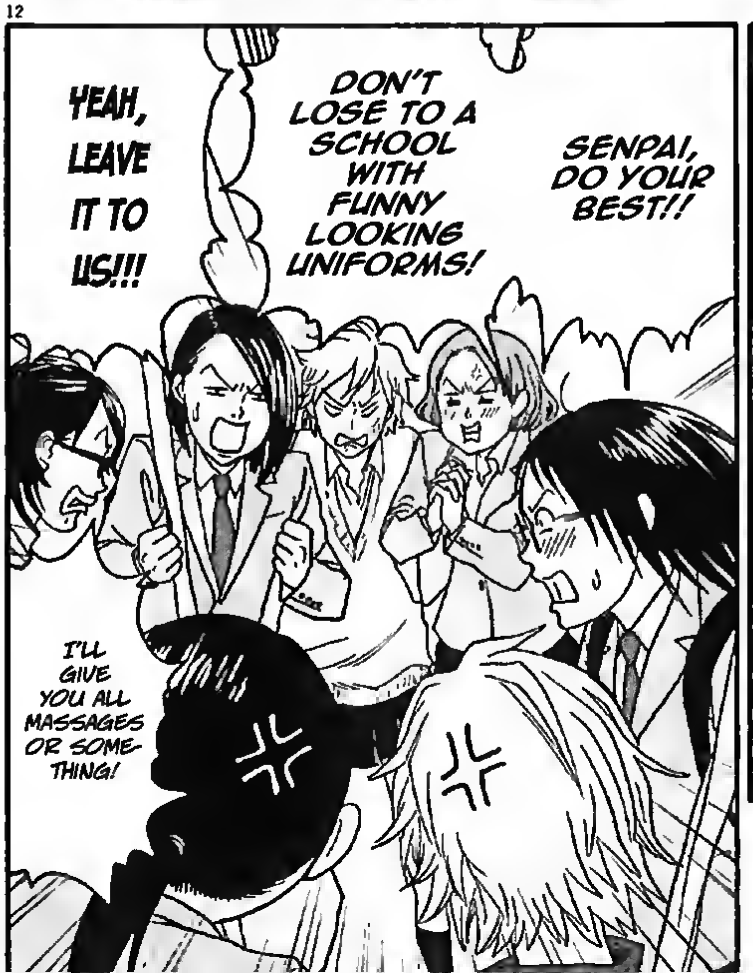
HEY, THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD!
THAT YOUR TEAM IS BEING TAUGHT BY A SECOND YEAR?
TYPICAL OF SEISEN, YOU'RE STILL DRESSED LIKE OTAKU COS-PLAYING ANIME CHARACTERS.
YOU HICKS FROM HACHIOUJI ARE OVER-ESTIMATING YOUR ABILITIES, PULL OUT NOW AND GO BACK TO THE STICKS.

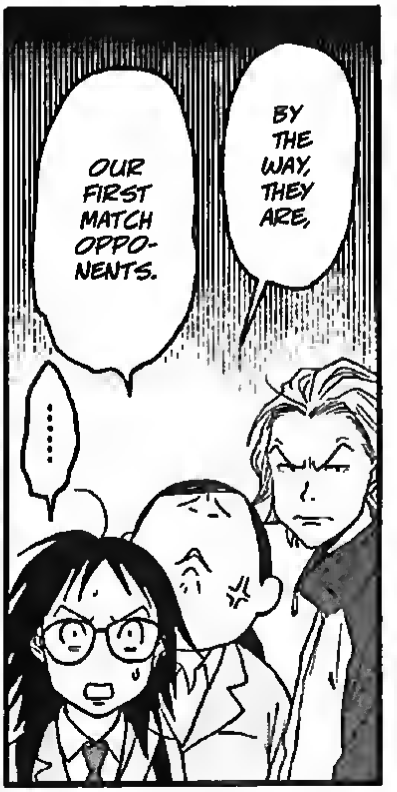

LIFE IS SO CRUEL ISN'T IT?
THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR.

ON THAT NOTE, OUR COACH ASKED THE NAGINATA FEDERATION FOR HELP.
THANKS TO THEIR HELP, WE'VE DEVELOPED A WINNING STRATEGY.


DO YOUR BEST IN THOSE CHEAP NYLON HAKAMA OF YOURS.
WELL,
RIGHT AWAY, COACH!
OI! S'GO.

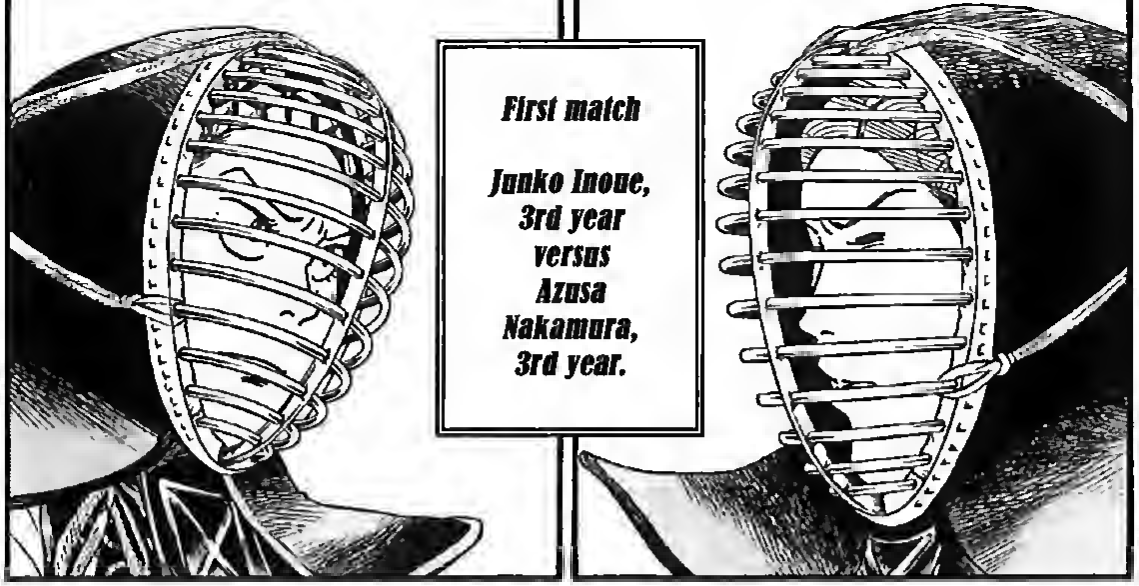
12

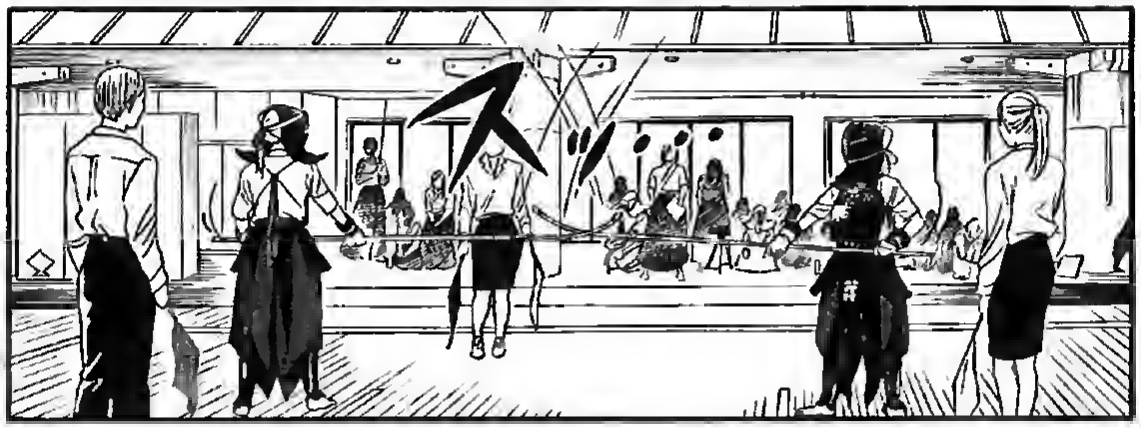

YEAH, LEAVE IT TO US!!!
DON'T LOSE TO A SCHOOL WITH FUNNY LOOKING UNIFORMS!
SENPAI, DO YOUR BEST!!
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL MASSAGES OR SOME-THING!

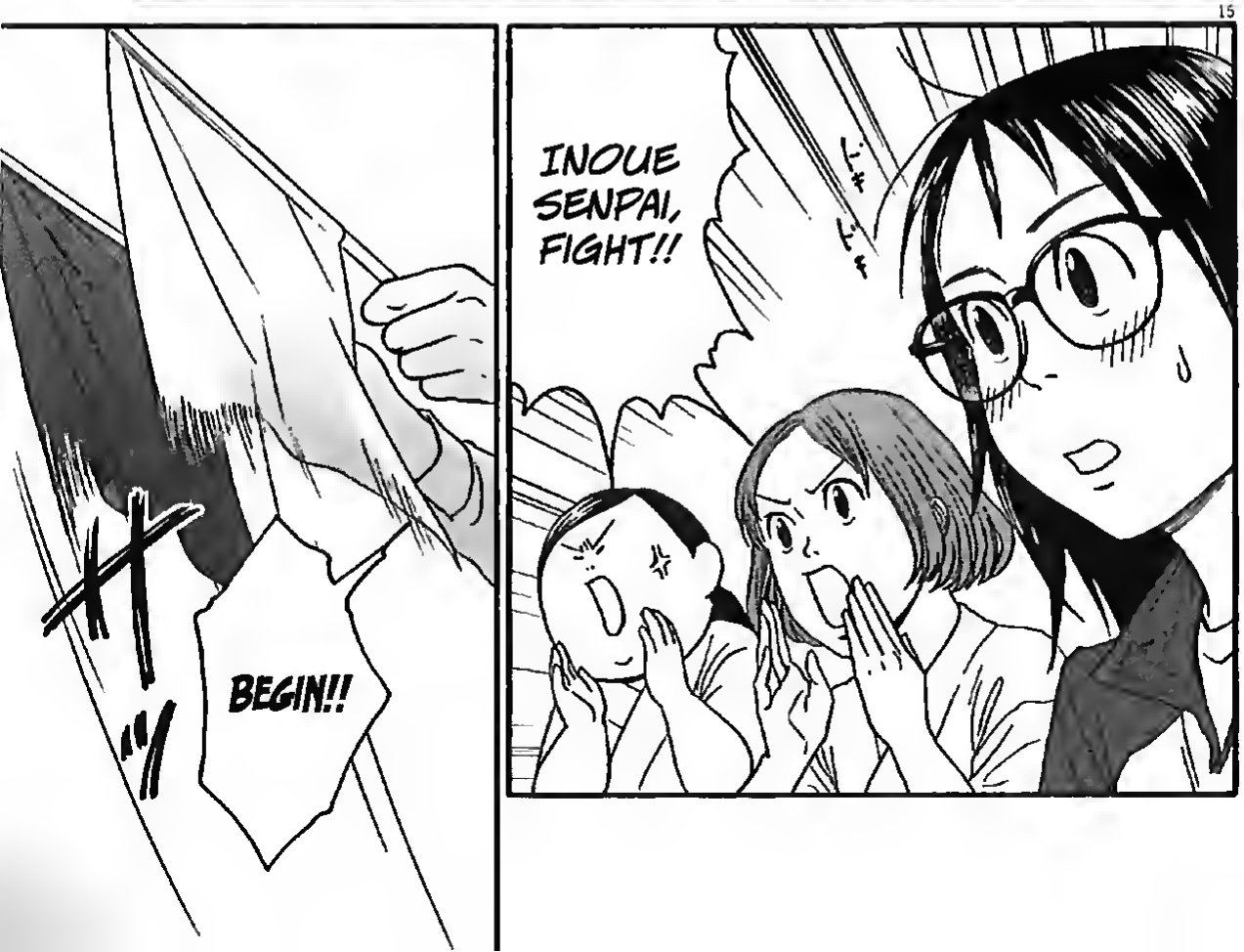

BY THE WAY, THEY ARE,
OUR FIRST MATCH OPPO-NENTS.
.....

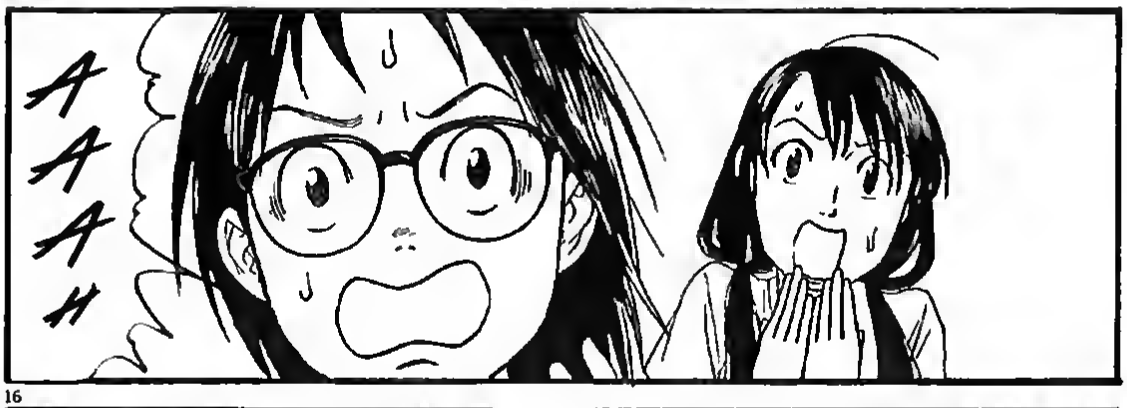
I'M NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT.
INAMOTO SENPAI, LET ME CARRY YOUR THINGS.
AH, I'M FINE.
BECAUSE MAHARU SENPAI IS PARTICIPATING, ONE OF THE 3RD YEARS HAS TO SIT OUT.
OH.
I-I,M SORRY.
EH.
IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY.
LET'S DO OUR BEST CHEERING THEM ON.
FOR INAMOTO SENPAI THIS MAY BE HER LAST MATCH BEFORE SHE GRADUATES.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
DON'T SAY SOMETHING THAT WILL BRING US BAD LUCK.
.....

Interhigh Preliminaries
First match, A block
RED SASH, FUTATSU-ZAKA HIGH SCHOOL.
WHITE SASH, SEISEN ACADEMY
BOW.
二将 井上
二将 栗口
二将 大友

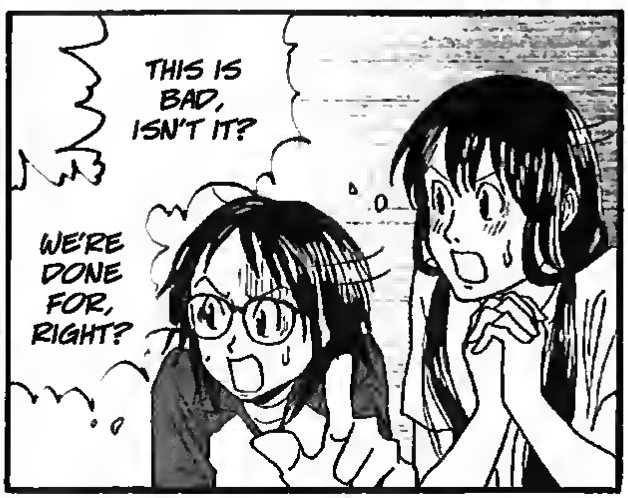

First match
Junko Inoue,
3rd year
versus
Azusa
Nakamura,
3rd year.

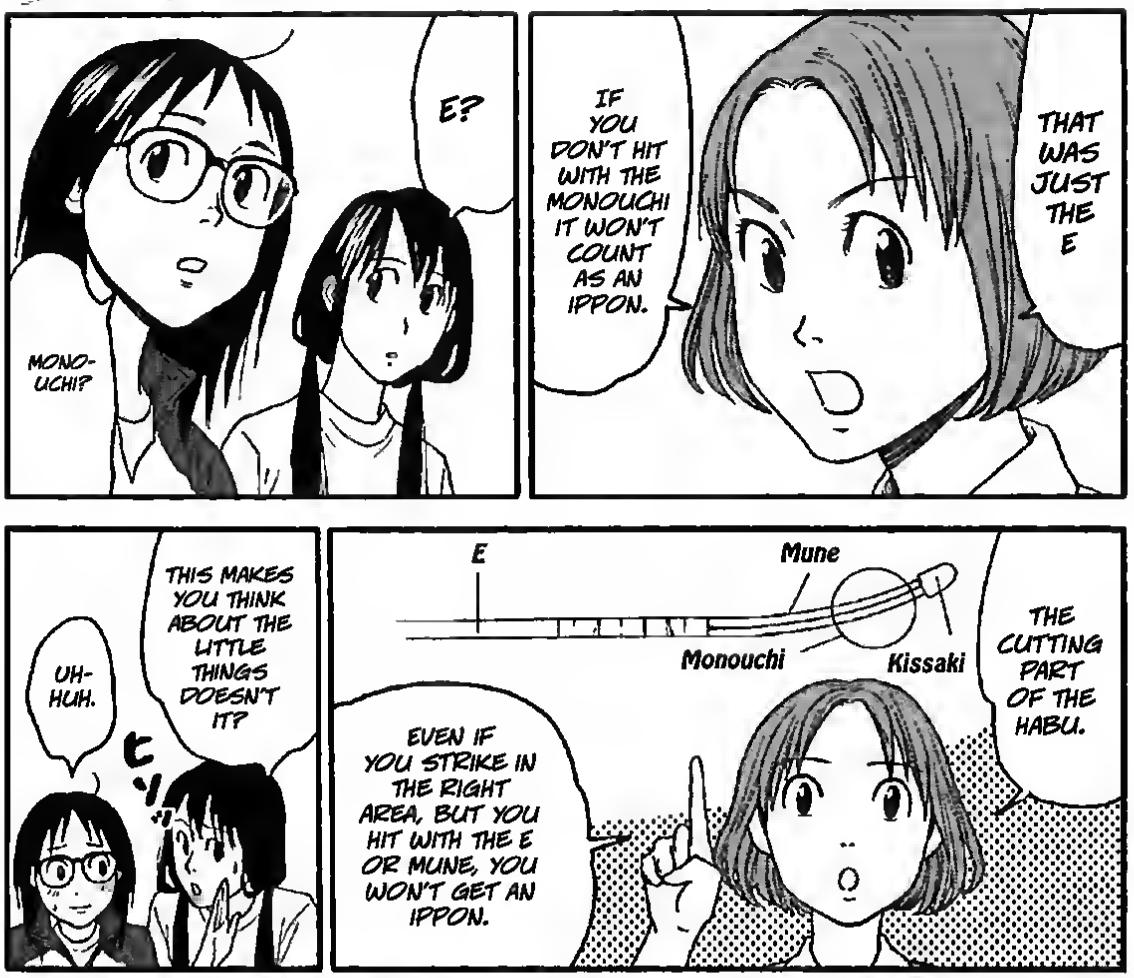



INOUE SENPAI, FIGHT!!
ビチビチ
BEGIN!!

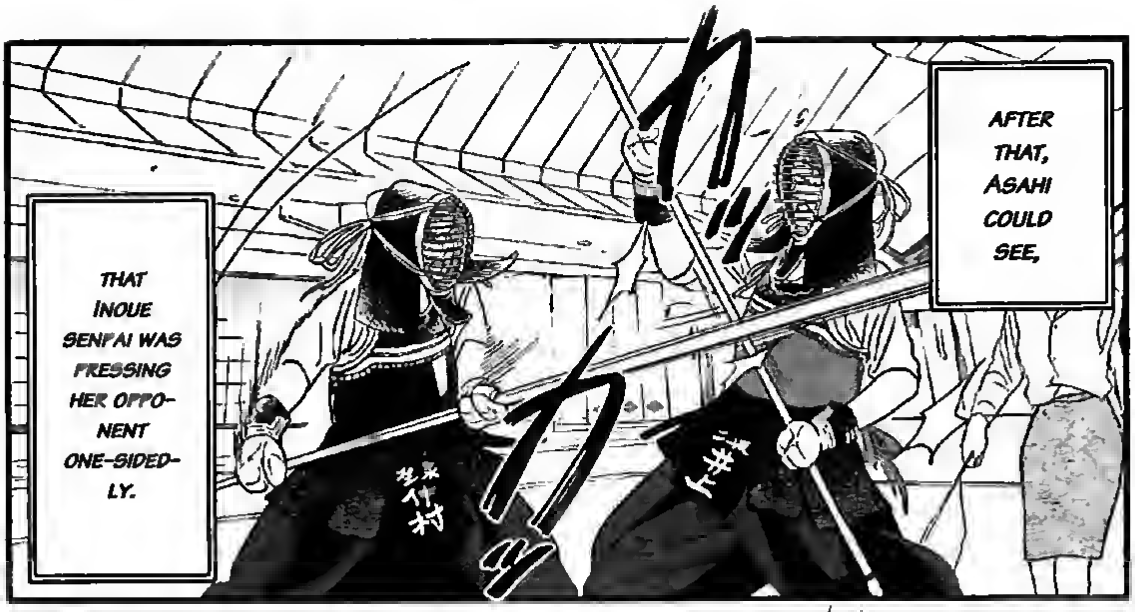


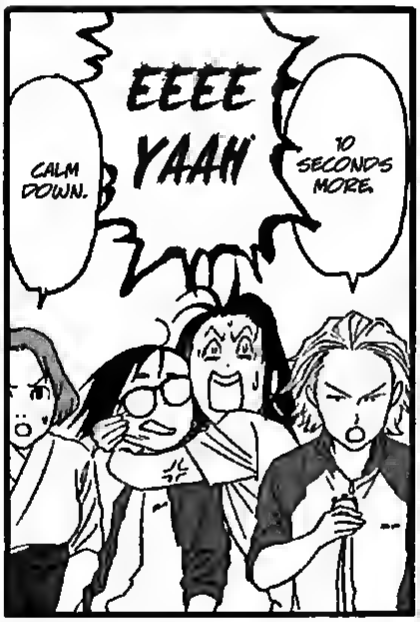
16

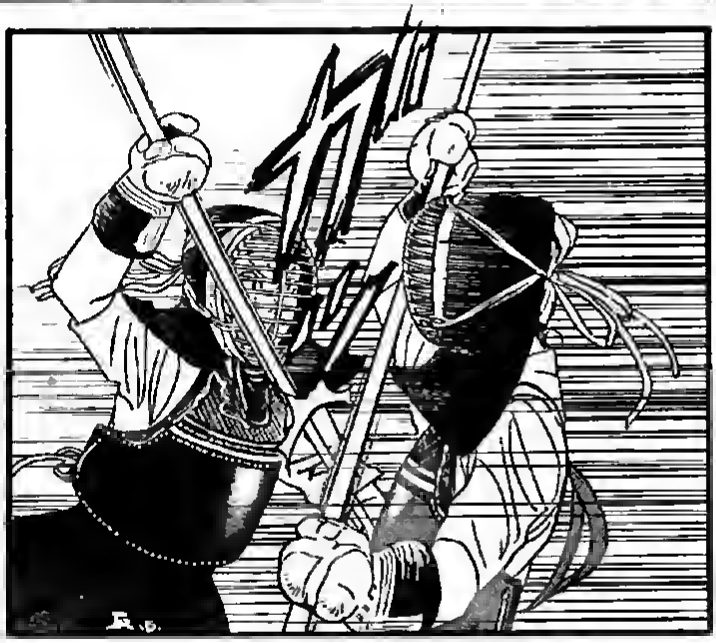



E?
MONO-UCHI?
IF YOU DON'T HIT WITH THE MONOUCHI IT WON'T COUNT AS AN IPPON.
THAT WAS JUST THE E
THIS MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT THE LITTLE THINGS DOESN'T IT?
UH-HUH.
E
Mune
Monouchi
Kissaki
THE CUTTING PART OF THE HABU.
EVEN IF YOU STRIKE IN THE RIGHT AREA, BUT YOU HIT WITH THE E OR MUNE, YOU WON'T GET AN IPPON.

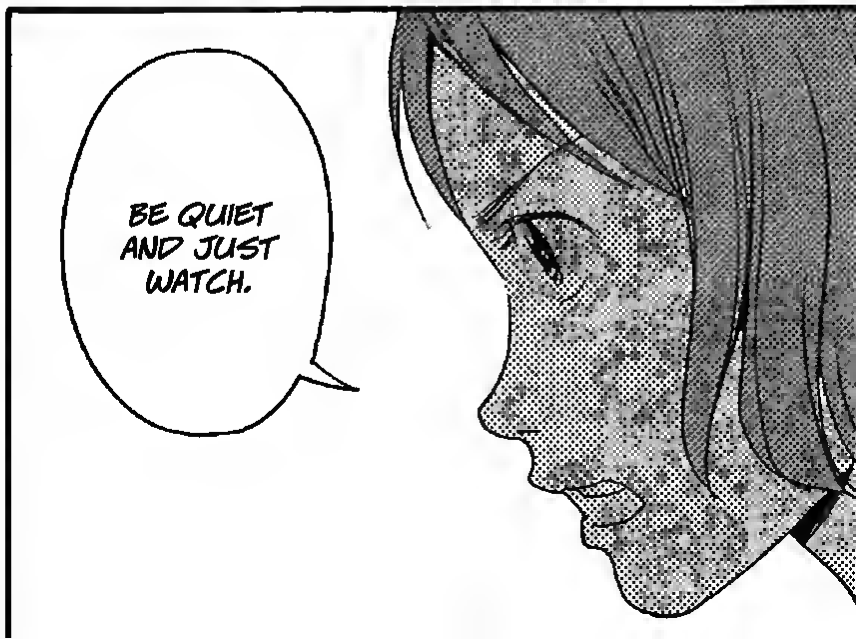
YAAA
MUNE
THAT STRIKE WAS TOO LOW.
WE DIDN'T LOSE JUST THEN DID WE?

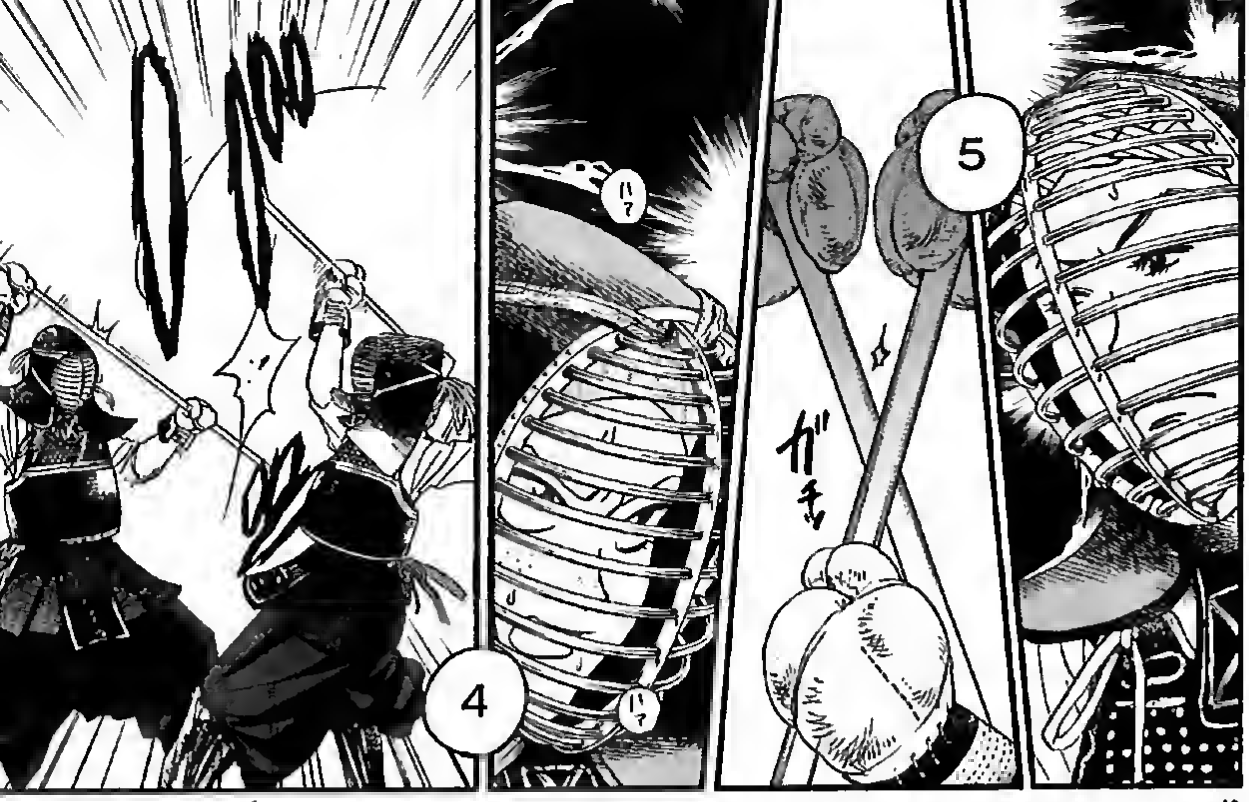

AFTER THAT, ASAHI COULD SEE,
THAT INOUE SENPAI WAS PRESSING HER OPPONENT ONE-SIDEDLY.


EEEE YAAH
CALM DOWN.
10 SECONDS MORE.



AZUSA! STOP CLOSING WITH HER AND HIT HER HARD.


BE QUIET AND JUST WATCH.


5
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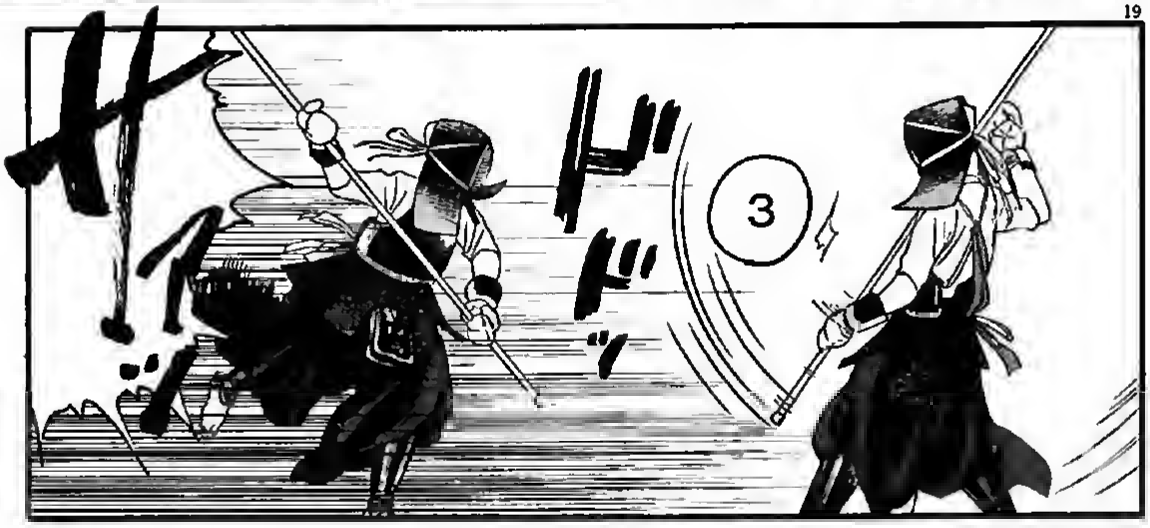
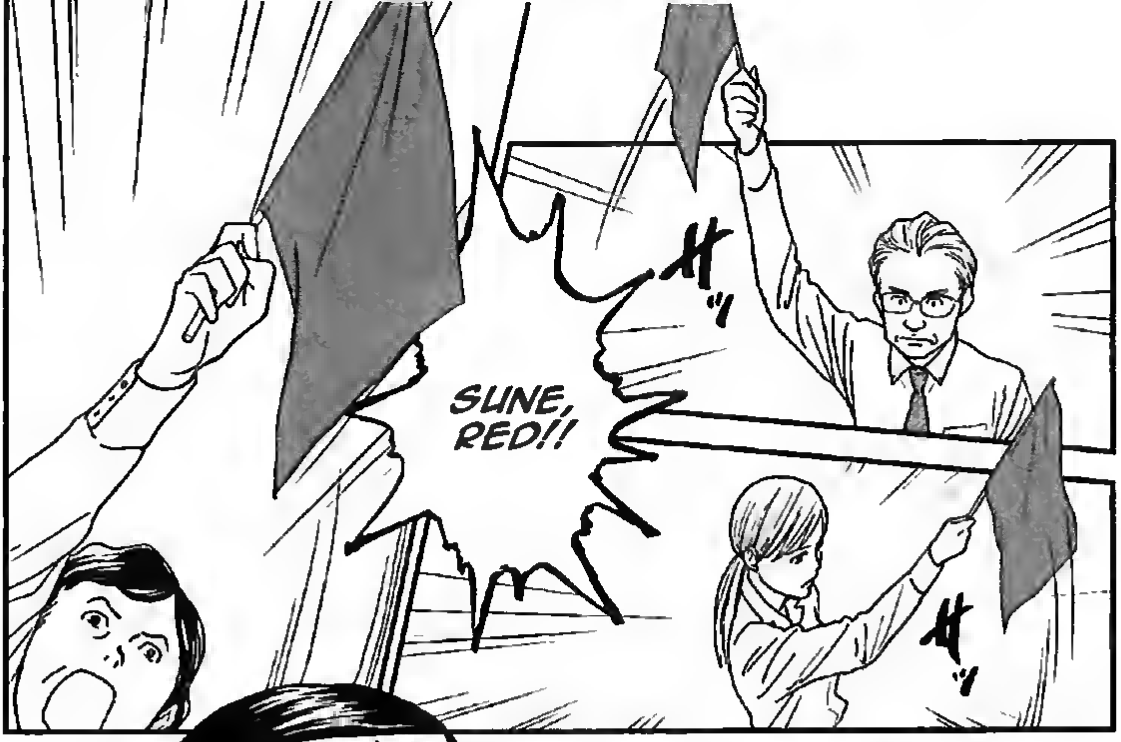
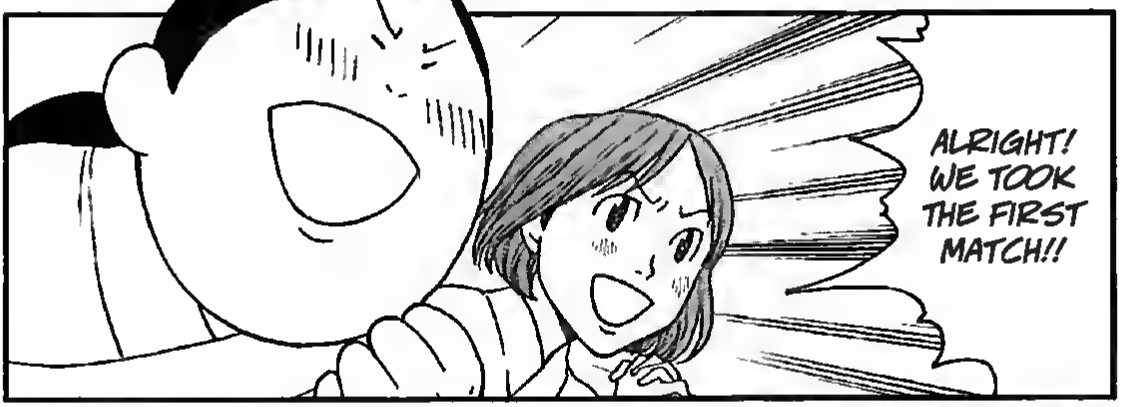
4
ハァ


3

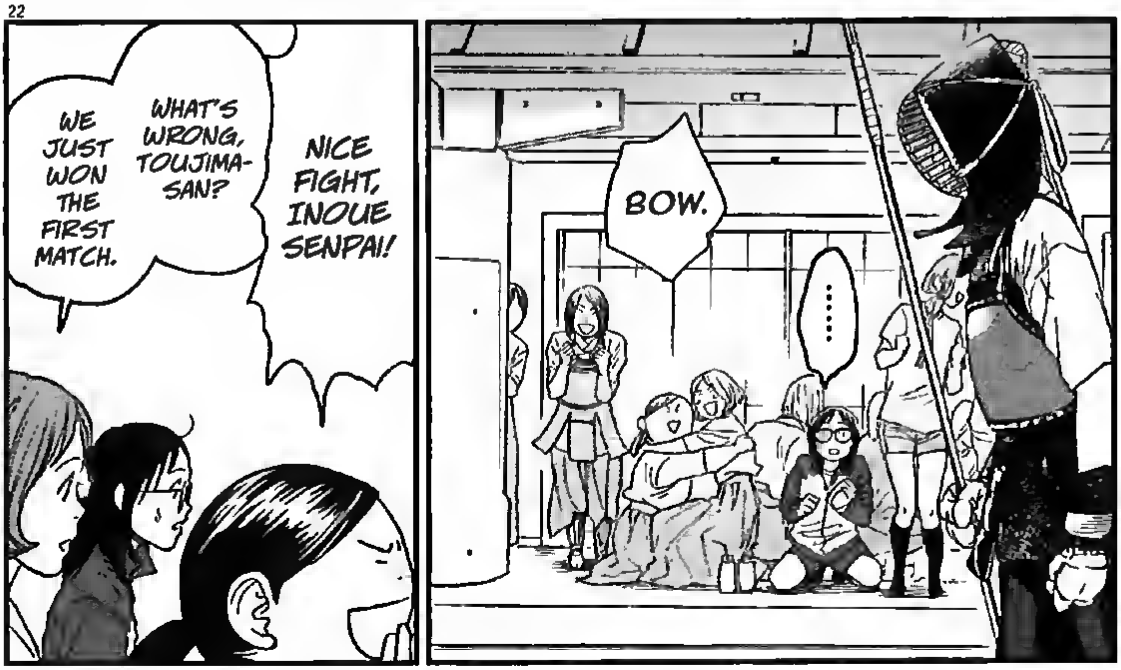
2

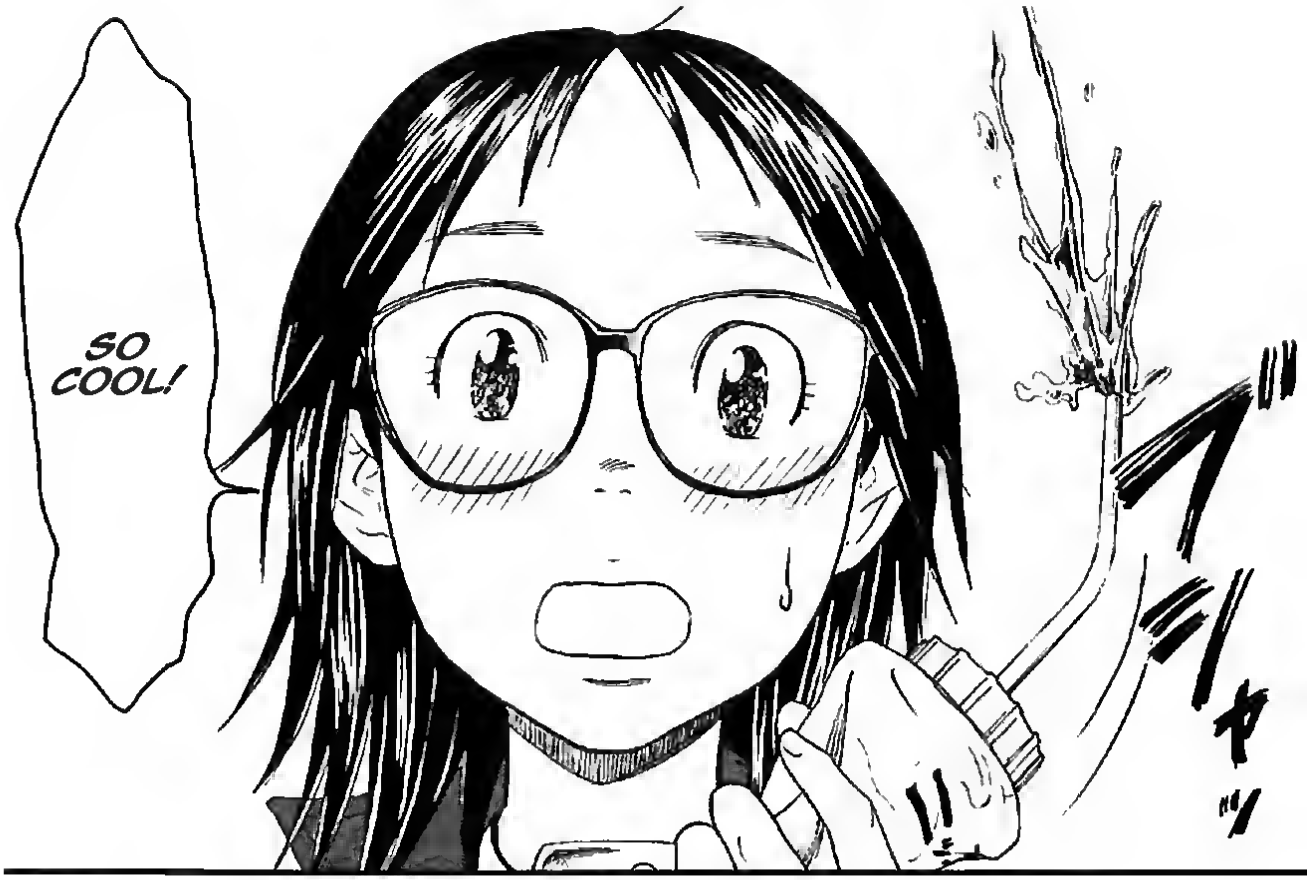
110
SHINE
泉中村


SUNE, RED!!

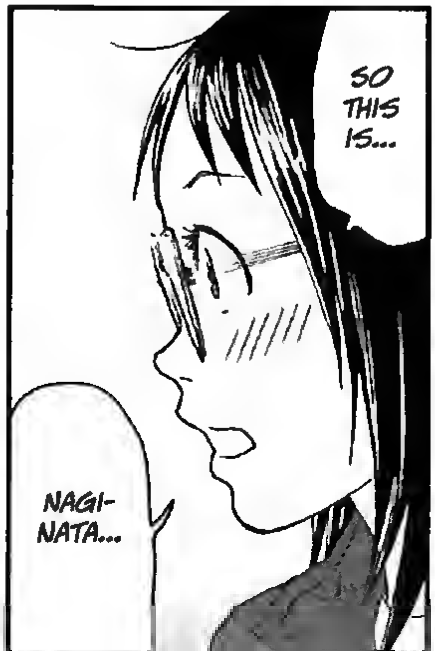

ALRIGHT! WE TOOK THE FIRST MATCH!!

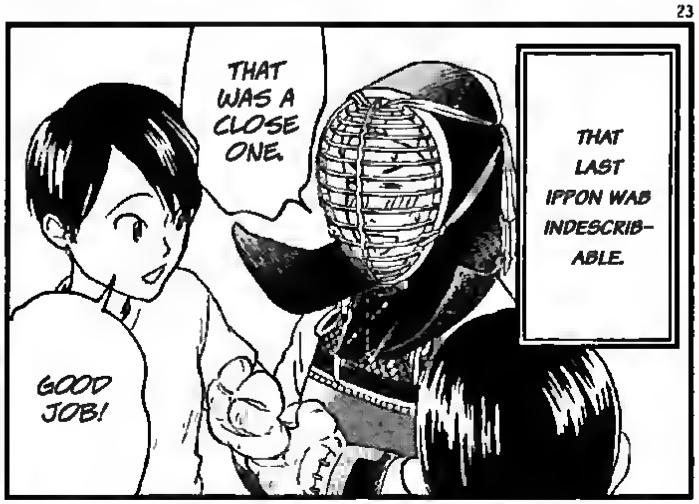
22


WE JUST WON THE FIRST MATCH.
WHAT'S WRONG, TOUJIMA-SAN?
NICE FIGHT, INOUE SENPAI!
BOW.
.....


SO COOL!

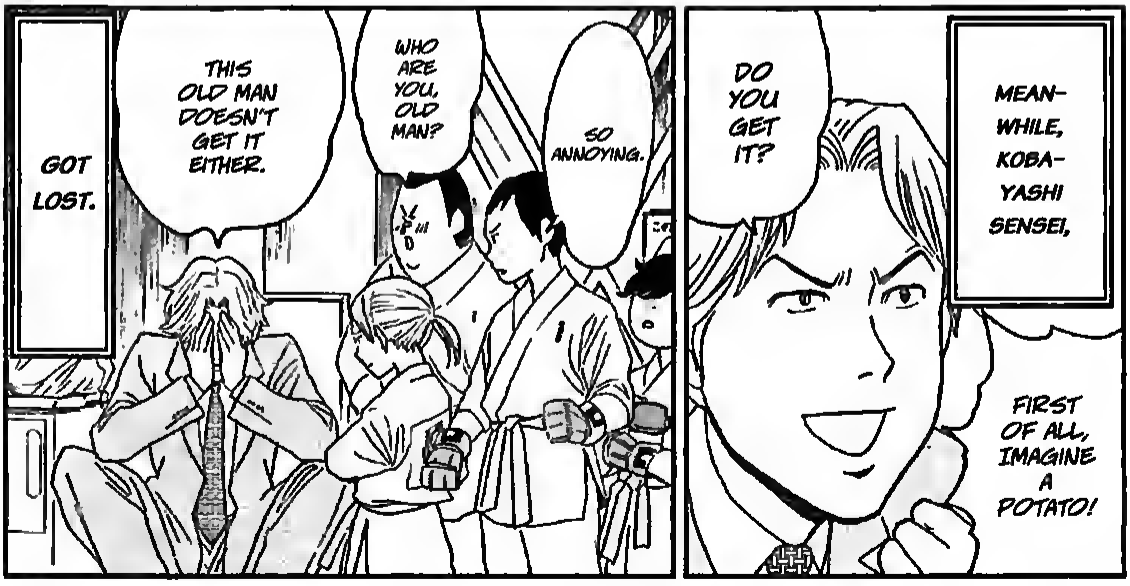
IN ASAHI'S EYES,
AHH.
ドボドボ
HEY, THAT'S THE DRINK THAT SENPAI GAVE YOU!


SO THIS IS...
NAGI-NATA...


THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
GOOD JOB!
THAT LAST IPPON WAS INDESCRIB-ABLE.

NEW WORLD.
NEXT FIGHTER STEP FORWARD.
MY,
AYE!

24


GOT LOST.
THIS OLD MAN DOESN'T GET IT EITHER.
WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?
SO ANNOYING.
DO YOU GET IT?
MEAN-WHILE, KOBA-YASHI SENSEI,
FIRST OF ALL, IMAGINE A POTATO!

BAMBOO SWORD SCANS

TRANSLATOR - DAGGIO

CLEANER & TYPESETTER - 1992MARIGOLD

QC - ALICE

T/L NOTES
REAL PLACE NAMES ARE USED IN THIS MANGA.
BUBAIGAWARA IS AN ACTUAL TRAIN STATION. HACHIOUJI IS CONSIDERED A "RURAL" AREA BY RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL TOKYO, WHERE AZABU IS LOCATED.

NAGINATA MATCHES ARE DECIDED ON BEST 2 OUT OF 3.
THE WINNING STRIKE IS CALLED THE IPPON. INOUE SENPAI SCORED TWICE TO WIN THE MATCH AND EACH STRIKE WAS AN IPPON.